

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An absorbent article comprising;

a main body having a first main body waist portion, a second main body waist portion and a central main body portion disposed between the first and second main body waist portions, the main body having orthogonal longitudinal and lateral axes; and

a pair of elastic side panels each connecting the first main body waist portion to the second main body waist portion, the main body and the side panels collectively defining a waist opening edge surrounding a waist opening and two leg opening edges, each leg opening edge surrounding a leg opening, each elastic side panel having a first side portion extending laterally outward from the first main body waist portion and terminating in a first outer lateral side panel edge, and a second side portion extending laterally outward from the second main body waist portion and terminating in a second outer lateral side panel edge, the first side portion being attached to the second side portion by a curved side seam, ~~at least a portion of the side seam being curved when the first and second side portions are in a fully extended condition.~~

Claim 2 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the absorbent article comprises a backsheet and wherein the main body includes a first portion of the backsheet, a topsheet attached to the first portion of the backsheet and an absorbent core disposed intermediate the topsheet and the first portion of the backsheet, the elastic side panels being formed at least in part from a second portion of the backsheet.

Claims 3-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (currently amended): An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ at least a portion of the side seam is formed as a circular arc.

Claim 6 (currently amended): An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ at least a portion of the side seam comprises a plurality of curved sub-portions.

Claim 7 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 6 wherein at least two of the plurality of curved sub-portions are formed with different geometric curve types.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): An absorbent article according to ~~claim 8~~ claim 1 wherein ~~the first portion of~~ the side seam has a centerline that intersects the waist opening edge at a first intersection point, a tangent to the centerline defining a first seam angle with respect to the vertical axis.

Claim 10 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 9 wherein the first seam angle is in a range from about 0 to about 80 degrees.

Claim 11 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 9 wherein the first seam angle is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 50 degrees.

Claim 12 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 9 wherein the first side seam angle is in a range from about 25 degrees to about 35 degrees.

Claim 13 (currently amended): An absorbent article according to claim 9 wherein the ~~second portion of~~ the side seam has a centerline that intersects one of the leg opening edges at a second intersection point, the centerline defining a second seam angle with respect to the vertical axis.

Claim 14 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 13 wherein the second seam angle is in a range from about 0 to about 80 degrees.

Claim 15 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 13 wherein the second seam angle is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 50 degrees.

Claim 16 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 13 wherein the second side seam angle is in a range from about 25 degrees to about 35 degrees.

Claims 17-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 1 wherein the first side portion includes a lower hip region having a lateral hip region edge, the lateral hip region edge intersecting the first outer lateral side panel edge.

Claim 27 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 26 wherein at least a portion of the first outer lateral side panel edge and at least a portion of the lateral hip region edge form a substantially continuous curve.

Claim 28 (currently amended): An absorbent article comprising:

- a main body having a first main body waist portion, a second main body waist portion and a central main body portion disposed between the first and second main body waist portions, the main body having orthogonal vertical and lateral axes;

- a pair of side panels, each side panel connecting the first main body waist portion to the second main body waist portion, the main body and the side panels collectively defining a waist opening edge and two leg opening edges, each side panel being formed from a first side portion extending laterally outward from the first main body waist portion and a second side portion extending laterally outward from the second main body waist portion; and

- a pair of curved side seams, each side seam connecting the first side portion of one of the side panels to the second side portion of the same side panel, each side seam intersecting the waist opening edge at a first seam angle relative to the vertical axis and intersecting one of the

leg opening edges at a second seam angle relative to the vertical axis ~~when the first and second side portions of the associated side panel are in a fully extended condition, at least a portion of each side seam being curved when the first and second side portions of the associated side panel are in a fully extended condition.~~

Claim 29 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 28 wherein at least one of the first and second side seam angles is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 80 degrees.

Claim 30 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 28 wherein at least one of the first and second side seam angles is in a range from about 10 degrees to about 50 degrees.

Claim 31 (original): An absorbent article according to claim 28 wherein at least one of the first and second side seam angles is in a range from about 25 degrees to about 35 degrees.

Claim 32-37 (canceled).